

SOLACE

1. The Retracer
2. The Entangled
3. Emergent One
4. Selfsimilar
5. Ancient Generations
6. Solace
7. The Shadowsphere
8. The Voidless

THOUGHTS AND MESSAGES

THE STRANDS THAT LEAD ME TO THIS ALBUM

This record was created over a period of about 4 years while I lived in Vancouver (2013-2017), but some of the content used on it pre-dates both **Hollow Worlds (2013)**, and **Slip Through (2009)**. The title track '**Solace**' was demo'd and fleshed out around 14 years ago, and released semi publicly on the internet in 2004. At the time it was ironically titled '*In solace, Waiting*'. The key word being 'Waiting'. I was never able to fully realize the song to how it was envisioned, it paralyzed me, but I knew it had potential. It poked at me for months/years. I grew to despise it. Forgot about it over the years, and eventually released *Slip Through* in 2009. Some of the material on that record predates *In Solace, Waiting* (The first track on *Slip Through* -- '*Giving in to the Violence*' was from around 2002-2003).

Over the years the requests piled up for links to that old demo song. I decided to put together a virtual machine to install all I needed to open up the faded old sessions in Windows XP, and take a look at what I had. I managed to salvage some key elements, and realized the rest would be easy to recreate and finally do a lot more with. I did the same process with 'The Retracer' on **Solace** and, and also for 'Chasms' on **Hollow Worlds**. Both of those, or at least the core of them, are from around the same time '*In Solace, Waiting*' was written.

A NOTE ABOUT THE SOLACE'S SONG ORDER AND CONTENT

The songs on the record aren't in a chronological order, but are recollections of moments or events that take place in multiple places. Some of which happen with-in other songs. Some are the same event from a different perspective. There is an index glossary provided as guide to what my own concept to this record is, and what many of the titles you'll see in the narration pieces in the lyrics refer to.

I've intentionally left a lot of things open, as the paradoxical nature of some of the physics used makes that inherent. I am not a physicist by any means, but enjoying thinking about the 'what ifs', and reading up on strange astrophysical phenomena. I've merely used what I think I know about some of the concepts, and have attempted to use them as a vessel to tell **a science fiction story**, which can be drawn in parallel to events and topics we experience in our own lives. For myself, I eventually realized that my personal link to this story after fleshing it out was about my own struggles with various mental illnesses.

I hope this record can inspire dialog about science, science fiction, physics, struggles with mental illness, and whatever (if any) meaning you find in it. I'd love to hear from you.

THE BOLTZMANN BRAIN COMPARISONS

When I started thinking about some of the concepts of this record, I did not know of The Boltzmann Brain Hypothesis (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boltzmann_brain). I was unaware of how it related to entropy, and all of the paradoxes and anomalies that arise when considering such long time scales in entropic systems. When I read up on it more, I was extremely intrigued at the parallels I had already drawn unknowingly, but I have to give credit and a firm tip of the hat to the physicists and philosophers who've taken those ideas to great depths over the years. Thank you!

1 - THE RETRACER (THE MIRRORING RECURSION)

-- The Emergent One, along with members of The Void merge to activate The Retracer --
-- The Emergent One senses a malevolence upon communicating with it --
-- The Retracer questions The Emergent One and The Void as they combine to form it --

Do you want to see the root of the end?
There's a part of you
In the strands you choose
A path you've left
To retain what's you
Through the rot and truths
All are intertwined

-- The Emergent One in realization of the consequence of initiating The Mirroring Recursion --

Slim chances to
Infect their
Cracking
Fragmented
Entropic
Lonely
Droning
Recursive draining deaths
Their strands to feed the
End of ends

(The Retracer)
Recursive Error

-- The Emergent One initiates The Mirroring Recursion. The Void, The Voidless, and The Emergent One perish as background radiation in New Solace --

Frays of my strands
Will retrace what's left of you

2 - THE ENTANGLED (BLACKFOLDS)

-- The Entangled - In profound existential confusion upon entering a Blackfold as two individual beings, rather than The Whole --

We're not the same
Suplanted in two bodies
That causality
Would shed in fleeting seconds

Chorus

Knotting up in me
Are phantoms all we are?
Entangled intuition
Is something I have lost

-- The Entangled - Becoming aware that their existence with The Void has been of little meaning. They find Solace in their Blackfold. --

We're not the same
Streaking spectres
On the run
From a meaningless
Ending

-- The Entangled - Frightened by the vulnerability that each half can bare individual thought --

Parse my mind
Before we're pulled inside
Within our blackest folds
There's no restraint
left on the words untold

Chorus

-- ... a self-premonition or encoded message The Entangled recieves has from from a darkened, unknown location --

I'll preserve you
Before
I leave this space

-- The Entangled - Learning that they still maintain an intuitive entangled connection in their duality --

I will always feel your pain
It's white within the darkFrays of my strands

-- 'The Faded One' in a very distant future in Solace recounts --

It's knotting up in me
In Blackfolds under a
Blanked out ill delusion
You're something I have lost

3 - EMERGENT ONE (OBSERVER)

-- The Emergent One - In the current universe after The Collapse of Solace, is obsessive about The Faded One's emergence --

Count the waves
In perfect phase
Over and over
Not to sway
But I sought
A glimpse of time
Preceding my own light

-- The Faded One - In loose communication with The Emergent One --
We'd better see it now

-- The Entangled - Terrified when considering that The Faded One's Emergence odds of eventually Emerging are beyond their means --
That breaking away from the chasm would leave us all alone
Fuck

-- A shared nostalgic memory from The Entangled's time back in Solace --

We'll Emerge as one
And Replace this outcome
We'll revert the suns/sums
And say where this begun
Emerge as one
Replace this outcome
Reverse the sums/suns
Just say where this begun

-- The Emergent One - Intuits a signal of The Faded One in cycle of despair, rotating through The Shadowsphere --

When you talk, your time is leaking
Constants broken, edges bleeding

-- The Emergent One's initial resolve to initiate The Mirroring Recursion within The Retracer --

To leave I thought to bend
The past that flows
From the end

-- The Fading One --

We're concurrently estranged
In all we've lost in here
But the worst will shift to red
If I can't find you

-- From a point in time near The Collapse of Solace --

-- The Entangled's solidified resolve to enter The Shadowsphere to attempt Recombination and escape The Collapse of Solace intact --

We'll emerge as one
Replace this outcome
Reverse the sums
To a place when this
Begun

-- The Fading One - In The Shadowsphere, is failing to maintain stability --

Your fragments shread
To the surface
Solace ends here
But I won't see you
Leave

When you talk
Your time is bleeding
Constants broken
Edges beating

4 - SELFSIMILAR (OBSERVING THE ESTRANGED SELF)

-- The Entangled - Reflecting upon It's paradoxical dual existence in frustration, shortly after entering Solace --

-- The two halves of The Entangled question if their duality can maintain stability, as both believe they are damaged from The Division --

When I observe you
Reflections fracture through
Bends in the shadowed arcs
That twist the last of me from you
So all at once
Our shapes undone

If this all that's left here (gone)
I choose to not regret this (none)
This path is least resistant (of all)
And that's how we'll know we were
Wrong

Chorus

Will this transform hold?
I took the damaged half that was left of the whole
Is this not repeating?
This is the time if you wanted to
Breakway
AwayAwayAwayAway

-- Both halves of The Entangled sense a repeating pattern of repulsion between them, in paradox to the attraction to recombine --

-- Their own identities start to form as they question separating indefinitely --

-- Both go into a period of dissociated introspection --

(to an) Impossible disguise
Where it is a fight to stay hidden
I can idolize the mark you've left in me
Through a line that sought
One I fell too far between
Where the silence is a death scream

-- A violent attempt at recombination is attempted simultaneously by The Entangled and almost results in annihilation --

-- Both halves of The Entangled resolve to separate, evolve on their own, and hope to recombine after repairing --

If for a moment we re-encounter
Let's not repeat the same outcome

-Chorus-

This is the time if you wanted to
Break away
This is the time if you wanted to
Break away

5 - ANCIENT GENERATIONS (HYMNS OF THE ENTRAPPED)

-- The weakened voices of The Entrapped eventually perceived by all beings of The Void and The Voidless --

Ancient warmth

Beneath a rare

Sleeping chance

To leave someday

We're formless

We're too many

We're formless

We'll leave someday

6 - SOLACE (E S T R A N G E D - R E U N I T E D - C O L L A P S E)

-- **Emerging One** - **Fighting as an advanced being in Solace near it's end during The War. An overwhelming sense of intuition is felt --**

I pull this hopeless state
And slide in to my shade
Feeling a curse
Bruise and singe
Through a screaming rapid shockwave

*The Collapse of Solace initiates in massive gravitational bursts.
The Entangled re-unite in battle and recall their true origin.
The Retracer's superpositional scanning detects this and attempts to remove them.*

And so we fall
To our wreckages below
They dot the skyline in bleak horizon
The sound of of letting go
I can feel that emotion
Evaporate like rain
A moment we can recollect
That I'm hoping will not fray away again

-- **The Fading One** - **Weakened in battle, becomes damaged by gravitational bursts. An ominous sense of The Retracer's probing is felt --**

Hit ground intact
Taken aback from impact
Alone and unscathed
Accustomed to this game we play
Nothing I could change
Would free us from this phase refrained
Bonded to to a frequency
That's cycling independently

-- **The Entangled** - **Communicate their fear of The Collapse that's happening, and rejoining The Void --**

Onward
Through this fear we feel the same
Subdued and tranquilized
On a medicated train
Through vacant spaces
Racing
To retrace every
Thought

-- **The Entangled** - **In mourning the end of Solace --**

Through the frames of faded stars
Where I could hold this time and
Tear apart this darkness folding
Autumn's cold wings
Wrapped around this incubated

Solace
Entangled in
Sorrow
Untangled in
Solace
Entangled in
Sorrow
Untangled in

-- **The Emerging One** asks itself about the fate of Solace and The Faded One, and is worried about re-entering the universe of The Void --

Solace
If I wait
Will you still be there?

-- **The violent collapse of Solace occurs -- The Retracer's scanning tendrils are felt -- Memories of Solace are scrambled --**
The Emerging One -- now The Emergent One, a damaged 'Voidless' -- Waits for eons at the point of re-entering the universe of The Void.
In deep existential pain from the loss of The Faded One, and the rich experiences of living within Solace, has no desire to reunite with The Void.
After a nearly immeasurable amount of time, a residual amount of energy from The Faded One speaks out in small, patterned bursts.
The Faded One -- Still trapped within The Shadowsphere slowly evaporates out 'The Imprint' to The Emergent One.

7 - THE SHADOWSPHERE (PHANTOMS OF THE HORIZON)

-- The Entangled speaking to itself in confusion upon entering The Shadowsphere - seeing the future and past as a continuum on the horizon --

Now we've crossed that line
Hope you've no regrets, because we're not turning back
We've left them behind
I knew The Void would come to be
Never thought that it would
Shape me

-- The Faded One speaking in confusion --

Now I've Seen your light slow
And fold in shadow to the always
In between everything, all or nothing

-- The Entangled - Desperate to Emerge together, but only find cognitive dissonance and frustration with The Shadowsphere --

-Chorus-

Is safe, from ending
It was defined by my and you
Fold in shadow to the always
In between everything, all or nothing can change
Ascending only would curve right back to you
Hold your pattern through the spiral
Thread your strands and I will find you there

-- The Entangled - Chasing phantoms of itself infinitely at the distance on the horizon The Shadowsphere --

our dot recedes to the farthest point
As the voices I hear become the phantoms we both show
Through The Shadowsphere
Through the horizon pulling out

-- The Emerging One fearing The Fading One's struggles to maintain stability in The Shadowsphere, and questions going on without Recombination --

I couldn't watch you spin forever and never reach for your hand
Why would I want to live forever if I'd never see you again?

-- The Entangled - In continuing struggle to Emerge --

-Chorus-

Safe, from ending
It was defined by me and you
Fold in shadow to the always
In between everything, all or nothing can change
Ascending only would curve right back to you

-- The Emerging One witnesses the Strand of The Fading One on the horizon and attempts to send a message - a premonition - vowing to preserve --

The universe I promised to
Preserve when I had abandoned you

-- The Entangled in acceptance that one of their fates is sealed to remain within The Shadowsphere for eternity --

Voices I hear are the phantoms we both show
Through the shadowsphere
From the horizon blowing out

Fraying are the strands we chose
Dimmly

-- The Entangled communicating to each other as their shifting light fades and freezes upon The Shadowsphere --

Now I've seen
Your Light
Slow
And fold in shadow
To the always
In between everything
All or nothing
Is safe
To be
Divided souls
As folded shadows sharing solace
In between everything
All or nothing

....

8 - THE VOIDLESS (THE MIRRORING RECURSION)

-- The Voidless : Depressed by their austere existence after emerging from of their respective Blackfolds --

We'll find another way
To relive the lives
We've left behind
For nothing
And when we're caught
Point your fear to me
We'll bleed let our phantoms
To bleach the seas

As singular
We can't divide
Impotent lesson learned
In ending times
We dream in
Voidless
Pattern weaving
End to end
We've tried

-- A harrowing whisper from The Retracer seeps in to the minds of all of The Voidless --

-- Resolution --

End to End
End to End
End to End
Ends
In

-- The Mirroring Recursion blasts through all space-time --

-- All of The Voidless and The Void are scattered as background radiation in New Solace --

-- For those who eventually evolve in New Solace, and are attuned to listen, the remnants of these beings can heard screaming on the fringes --

Voidless
In
Solace

-- The Retracer is all that remains from The Mirroring Recursion within New Solace --

-- Having absorbed the knowledge of The Emergent One's ability to fold information within hidden space, The Retracer goes dormant within New Solace --

INDEX - GLOSSARY OF TERMS , NAMES , AND STORY ELEMENTS

The Void: *'The Void'* are a collective of energy based beings with a limited and alien form of intelligence. They live near the heat death of the current universe. They sustain themselves from the heat/energy as a result of entropy left over after all of stars have faded, and black holes have evaporated. They are large in size as individuals, and collectively take up the space of the entire known universe. This is a needed adaptation because of the nearly uniform distribution of energy this close to true heat death. Time is not much of a notion to them due to the extreme distances and rareness of any sort of energy interaction. There is little way of measuring time for anything when entropy has played out this far. They know not of where they came from, nor how long they've existed. Their experience is autonomous and limited to this. They share a weak but indestructible form of intuition through the nature of quantum entanglement, and connection with each other, and do not identify as singular beings. They must remain as collective to absorb, contain, and share the remaining heat in the dark in order to survive.

Blackfolds: *'Blackfolds'* are emerging universes that begin to appear possibly due to uncertain energy fluctuations that are greater than the entropic state existing near heat death. It is not known if an external force, act of recursion, or if a natural physical property of the known universe is causing these to emerge. *'The Retracer'* is eventually created by *'The Void'* to look into and correct this. When a *'Blackfold'* appears, it pulls the being of *'The Void'* which occupies that space in to it. Since each *'Blackfold'* has it's own physical properties separated by an event horizon, they also have their own timescales unrelated to the outside universe. To an outside observer, a being of *'The Void'* emerging from a *'Blackfold'* (see *'The Voidless'*) would only be gone an instant, but may have lived for a longer amount of time than our known universe exists. Many of *'The Void'* who get entrapped within *'Blackfolds'* live out entire existences within them. Some live as Gods. Some die out immediately if their *'Blackfold'* is unstable in it's physical properties. Some re-live many lives, as many different beings throughout the whole timeline of the *'Blackfold'* they are within.

Solace: *'Solace'* is a *'Blackfold'* which entraps *'The Entangled'* (A being of *'The Void'*). It's incredibly stable in it's natural physical properties, abundant in energy, and is capable of *'living'* for many, many times longer than our universe. It eventually harbours many forms of life and advanced civilizations. After untold lengths of time (many times longer than the potential age of our own universe, causing *'The Entangled'* to have lived much longer in *'Solace'* than in the outside universe) a massive scale war (see *'The War'*) breaks out between the last two rival factions within Solace. Both are vying for the remaining energy in Solace as it comes closer to it's own heat death.

The Retracer: What could be seen as massive quantum super computer formed by *'The Remainder'* members of *'The Void'*. *'The Void'* concentrate their remaining energy to build this structure, which would be the several billion times in size as the largest galaxy known to humans. It's existence is a desperate last effort to come up with a resolution to the *'Blackfolds'* problem. Since all members of *'The Void'* have a form of entanglement between them, *'The Retracer'* is able to observe what it calls *'Strands'* of each member of *'The Void'*, and analyze a superposition of their collective past to seek out error, and attempt resolve it.

The Entangled: *'The Entangled'* is the protagonist of Solace. A being of *'The Void'* who gets entrapped within *'Solace'*. Upon entering *'Solace'*, *'The Entangled'* divide to become two beings of the same whole (See *'The Division, The Emergent One, The Faded One'*). This is considered completely unique amongst all of *'The Void'* who become entrapped inside a *'Blackfold'*, and it gives the two beings unique properties (see *'The Imprint'* and *'The Retracer'*). Both beings enter as mere particles of energy in the chaos. Initially, *'The Entangled's'* desire to recombine is strong, but quickly the two halves realize that it's not possible within Solace's physical properties. They exist as paradoxical and dissonant entities initially, and separate out of confusion and perceived pain from *'The Division'*. After they separate, both halves evolve and live out billions of forms within *'Solace'* throughout it's existence until *'The War'*. Despite entering *'Solace'* and dividing, they maintain an entangled intuition with each other and other beings of *'The Void'*. This connection fades over time due to the damage from *'The Division'*, and as the generations they live within *'Solace'* separately cloud over their true identity. They both experience what could be seen as a *'Premonition'* (See *'The Premonition'*) shortly after entering *'Solace'*, and it tells them that some sort of preservation of self will need to take place. *'The Premonition'* causes each half of *'The Entangled'* to vow to eventually recombine, despite not being capable of it initially.

The Division: *'The War'* takes place within *'Solace'* near the end of its timeframe. It's a universal war in which the two remaining factions of life in *'Solace'* are fighting over the remaining energy within. The two halves of *'The Entangled'* find themselves on opposing sides during *'The War'* and reunite in battle. Their recognition of each other causes a cascade of memories of their previous existence as beings of *'The Void'*. *'The Collapse of Solace'* occurs quickly after this (partially as result), and a last effort for *'Recombination'* between the newly reunited being(s).

The War: *'The Collapse of Solace'* is a violent implosion of the *'Solace'* universe / *'Blackfold'* to a singularity that takes place during *'The War'*. It appears to be the result of several factors. *'The War'* itself causes vast amounts of energy and matter to be displaced within *'Solace'*. Also, since each half of *'The Entangled'* is now an advanced and highly energetic being within *'Solace'*, the effect of their initial repulsion they felt when entering is multiplied, causing a large gravity fluctuation to echo, and existentially damages *'The Faded One'*. Lastly, *'The Retracer'* is able to detect their *'Strands'* as they reunite, and attempts to pull them from *'Solace'*. It is not known if *'The Retracer's'* ability to detect them is a result of its own evolution, or because of encoding via *'The Imprint'* placed within *'The Retracer'* by *'The Emergent One'*. (See *'The Imprint'*)

The Recombination Attempt: *'Recombination'* or *'The Recombination Attempt'* is a dramatic act of focused energy, physics manipulation, and self sacrifice that *'The Entangled'* attempt right during *'The Collapse of Solace'*. This action takes place in a chaotic and paradoxical boundary called *'The Shadowsphere'* that enshrouds the collapsing *'Blackfold'* as it becomes a singularity. *'The Entangled'* attempt to make use of the extremely risky and strange physical properties held within *'The Shadowsphere'* to recombine and emerge as a singular being again. When *'Recombination'* is attempted within *'The Shadowsphere'*, *'The Entangled's'* identity is even more scattered. Phantoms of it are chased. Their existence becomes a paradox of self creation and self destruction. The lack of linearity in time and causality, which *'The Entangled'* had become accustomed to with in *'Solace'* leaves both extremely disoriented when making this attempt. *'The Faded One'* does not manage to escape, due the damage it took during the initial gravity disruption during *'The Collapse of Solace'* and *'The War'*. *'The Emergent One'* barely makes it out, but is also damaged and weak after emergence.

Emergence: *'Emergence'* is the process when a being of *'The Void'* is ejected -- still intact -- from a *'Blackfold'*. The emergent Void would be labeled one of *'The Voidless'* by *'The Void'* (See *'The Remainders'*). None are left undamaged or unchanged from when they initially were pulled in to their respective *'Blackfolds'*.

The Imprint: After *'The Collapse of Solace'* and *'The Recombination Attempt'*, *'The Emergent One'* waits for a long period of time near the exit point from *'Solace'*. Mostly due to weakness, but eventually it becomes an obsession to latch on to the faint entanglement of *'The Faded One'* that is still felt. Eventually, *'The Emergent One'* makes out an encoded message from *'The Faded One'*, still stuck within *'The Shadowsphere'*, which is an imprint of *'The Faded One's'* memories of *'Solace'*. During the time spent in the *'The Shadowsphere'* and because of properties provided to *'The Entangled'* by *'The Division'*, *'The Emergent One'* found a way to fold imprints of information within its being, tucked away into dimensions of space that could not be seen by *'The Retracer'*. *'The Emergent One'* hide's this information, which can act as a viral blueprint to *'The Retracer'* to rebuild *'Solace'* anew, exactly as it was at its prime. Upon meeting *'The Retracer'*, this blueprint is uploaded and carried out by *'The Retracer'* in an act deemed *'The Mirroring Recursion'*. *'The Emergent One'* knows this act will be the destruction of its kin and its self, but its deep seated obsession with recombination with *'The Faded One'* overwhelms. *'The Emergent One'* deludes this act of suicide as a rebirth. *'The Retracer'*, incidentally calculates that its the best solution to the *'Blackfolds'* problem.

The Mirroring Recursion: The solution *'The Retracer'* resolves to when being influenced/infected by *'The Emergent One's'* hidden *'Imprint'* of *'Solace'*. Rather than providing *'The Void'* with a solution to the *'Blackfolds'*, it immediately uses their remaining energy, and scatters fragments of it to the edges of a new universe, and uses the vast computational power to rebuild *'Solace'* in the *'Emergent One's'* image via *'The Imprint'*. It is an act akin to a *'Big Bang'* and rapid inflation. All of *'The Void'* are sapped of their remaining energy and are scattered as background radiation in *'New Solace'*. *'The Retracer'* learns of the ability of the *'Emergent One'* to fold imprints of information within extra space dimensions during this process, and uses it to hide an imprint of itself with-in *'The Entangled'* of *'New Solace'*.

** On the album, the songs **'The Retracer'** and **'The Voidless'** are a recount of this event. **'The Retracer'**: from the point of view of *'The Entangled'* and *'The Void'*. **'The Voidless'** is from the perspective of *'The Voidless'* as they sulk about past lives, and instantly are scattered.. Both songs are the act of *'The Mirroring Recursion'* and occur simultaneously as the start of *'Solace'* (anew) and the end of current universe that *'The Void'* reside in.

The Premonition: When *'The Entangled'* are engaged in *'The Recombination Attempt'* within *'The Shadowsphere'*, *'The Emergent One'* can observe the entirety of *'Solace's'* timeline, and has a limited influence in it at that point. Upon seeing the *'Strand'* of *'The Fading One'* when *'The Entangled'* first entered *'Solace'*, *'the Emergent One'* attempts to send a warning of self preservation back to *'The Fading One'*, in hopes that recombination would be successful in *'New Solace'*.

The Faded / Fading One: *'The Faded / Fading One'* is half of *'The Entangled'* who gets entrapped within *'Solace'* as it collapses, and eventually perishes or is physically cut off from the existing Universe. During the initial gravitational collapse that occurs while *'The Collapse of Solace'* is happening, *'The Fading One'* takes an existential form of damage due to injury inflicted during the war. This weakens it slightly compared to *'The Emerging One'*. *'The Faded One'* hasn't the energy to emerge from *'Solace'* intact when *'Recombination'* is attempted in The Shadowsphere because of because of this. Despite this, a small amount of entangled connection and thought exists between the two halves of *'The Entangled'* during and for a period of time after *'The Collapse of Solace'*. The memory of *'Solace'* and *'The Faded One'* is slowly imprinted upon *'The Emergent One'* as their connection collapses over a relatively short period of time after the collapse. *'The Emergent One'* feels if it waits long enough before joining *'The Retracer'*, it will obtain enough information to rebuild *'Solace'* at some point in the future.

The Emergent / Emerging One: *'The Emergent / Emerging One'* is half of the *'The Entangled'* that manages to escape *'The Shadowsphere'* during *'The Collapse of Solace'* back in to the existing universe where *'The Void'* reside. The bulk of the album is mostly from the perspective of the *'The Emergent One'* and it's eventual drive to commit to *'The Mirroring Recursion'* via *'The Imprint'*. While in *'The Shadowsphere'*, this being has a near infinite amount of time due to the extreme properties of on the horizon of *'The Shadowsphere'*. With that time, *'The Emergent One'* learns of it's own unique properties as a result of *'The Division'*, and learns to fold information with-in it's half-self into infinitesimally small spacial dimensions. *'The Retracer'* can not add this to it's calculations, and therefore cannot be aware of it. This property is how *'The Emergent One'* holds *'The Imprint'* within, and uses it once joined with *'The Retracer'* to initiate *'The Mirroring Recursion'*.

The Shadowsphere: The edge or event horizon of the singularity quickly destroying *'Solace'* during *'The Collapse of Solace'*. It's a paradox in it's physical properties. *'The Entangled'* are inflicted with a massive existential and identity crisis when entering this space, but they also come to realize that they can gain unique abilities from their experiences with-in. *'The Faded One'* does not manage to escape *'The Shadowsphere'*, however.

The Voidless: *'The Voidless'* are beings of *'The Void'* who escape *'Blackfolds'* as they collapse. They tend to have little interest in being involved in *'The Void'* collective, and cut off their ties to them as much as possible. They've lived lives well beyond their experience as member of *'The Void'* in the *'Blackfolds'*, and see very little reason to continue contributing to *'The Void's'* (pointless) collective interest.

The Remainders: *'The Remainders'* are beings of *'The Void'* who do not get entrapped within *'Blackfolds'*. In their limited experiences, they view the *'The Blackfolds'* and *'The Voidless'* as an immediate threat, as their own existence relies upon the collective of all. Faster than any scale of time they are used to, they see their own existence fading. As a last effort to solve the *'Blackfolds'* problem, *'The Remainder'* combine their remaining energy to form what could be interpreted as a massive quantum super computer called *'The Retracer'*. In doing this they nearly seal their fate, as they can no longer use their massive volumetric collection of the dying energy. *'The Retracer'* will either solve their dilemma, or they will risk quickly dying off having exhausted what they would have needed to survive for eons.

Strands: Superpositional lines of existence described by *'The Retracer'* that exist in throughout the universe and within *'Blackfolds'*. Strands can be *'Retraced'* and observed by *'The Retracer'*, and can also manipulate them (albeit by wasting vast amounts of energy) as a measure to correct the Blackfold problem if it encounters it. Every quanta in the universe emits these *'Strands'* as a signature and a connection to all other *'Strands'*.

New Solace: *'New Solace'* is more of a notion than an actual place in a time or space. *'New Solace'* may be the current universe. It may be the next. It may be another one, looping indefinitely. Or it might be the break in a recursive cycle of creation and destruction of universes.

C R E D I T S A N D T H A N K S

ALBUM CREDITS

Concept and all songs written, produced, mixed, and mastered by Réal Cardinal
Lyrics and Vocals by Réal Cardinal
Guitars by David Murphy and Réal Cardinal
Guitarviol on 'The Voidless' by Adam Lastiwka
Additional screams and haunting by Anthony Black / deadmusician on 'The Voidless'

ARTWORK CREDITS

all artworks created by Timothée Mathelin aka shift.
www.futurorg.com

THANK YOU FOR THE HELP

David Murphy for being a fulcrum in bringing Comaduster to the stage, and always being solid friend
Johannes Bez as a Consultant on story and Emotional Advisor during turbulent times / Bringer of the mosh and sweat
Arron Connelly for future live awesomeness, and always an open ear
Michael Kent for letting me bring the madness to his wonderful modular rig
Timothée Mathelin for staying onboard as artist, despite the vast time gaps in time and production
Alex Kennedy and Bruce Lord of <http://www.idieyoudie.com> for always having an open ear/open beer
Paul Neilsen for the pillar and platform that was Tympanik Audio
Anthony Black for letting me use his space when no other was available
Lindsey Kruper for offering her space -- despite not needing to make use of it in the end
Isaac Terpstra for going out of his way to give a spot in Vancouver to perform over the years
SHAHdjs for taking a chance with a crossover act and letting me perform at Falseoween 2014 in Vancouver
Chris Hewitt for letting us cut our teeth and grow as live performers at the Terminus Festival in Calgary
Cecil Frena aka Born Gold -- Despite not performing on this record, thank you for the open ear, critique and support
And to my life partner Diane MacIntyre for always being there through this process and all of it's struggles. Thank you for tolerating my unhinged and chaotic drive with compassion, patience, and love.
I love you, and all that we share in this life.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MANY FRIENDS FOR MORE HELP THAN I CAN MENTION

Isaac terpstra (Restricted Entertainment), SHAHdjs (Vancouver DnB), John Morgan (Director of Audio, Microsoft/The Coalition), Josh Osiris (Microsoft/The Coalition), Scott Fox (iVardensphere), Dawn Kosakewich, Gord McGladdery (A shell in the pit) Jeremie V (Director of Audio, Bioware/EA), All of my friends and colleagues at BioWare.
All of you from Vancouver, Edmonton, and abroad who've supported Comaduster online and in person.
None of your efforts go unnoticed.